

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
DOTE-00 EB-07 H-01 INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00  
NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02 OC-06 PRS-01 SS-15 USIE-00  
USSS-00 SY-05 FAA-00 WRD-01 MCT-01 SCS-03 SCA-01  
SSO-00 INRE-00 /101 W  
-----125084 091351Z /47

O R 091305Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8447  
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DOHA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 3764

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS, KU  
SUBJECT: KUWAIT HIJACKING: PRESS REPORT

REF: KUWAIT 3747 AND PREVIOUS (NOTAL).

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.

1. LOCAL ARABIC LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER AL-ANBA THIS  
MORNING CARRIED APPARENTLY MOST AUTHORITATIVE  
ACCOUNT SO FAR OF HIJACKING OF KUWAIT AIRWAYS PLANE.  
FROM CONTEXT OF ARTICLE IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE  
REPORTER, KAMAL DARWISH, WAS PRESENT OR HAD ACCESS  
TO THE CONTROL TOWER WHERE NEGOTIATIONS ARE BEING  
CONDUCTED. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF SUBSTANTIVE  
POINTS IN AL-ANBA ARTICLE: "THE LEADER OF THE  
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HIJACKING IS ABU THA'IR, CHIEF OF THE TECHNICAL  
SECTION OF AL-FATAH. ABU THA'IR CHARGED THAT THE  
LEADER OF THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ARMY HAD ARRESTED,  
THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY, A MEMBER OF HIS GROUP,  
MUHAMMAD ABU ZLAM, AND 17 OTHER FATAH MEMBERS.  
ACCORDING TO ABU THA'IR NONE OF THESE 17 HAVE ANY  
CONNECTION WITH POLITICAL OR MILITARY ACTIONS. ABU

THA'IR ASKED THAT ABU NA'IL (NAME BY WHICH MUHAMMAD AL-ADASANI, CURRENT KUWAITI MINISTER OF PLANNING AND FORMER KUWAITI AMBASSADOR TO LEBANON WAS REFERRED TO BY PALESTINIANS WHILE IN BEIRUT) JOIN HIM IN THE AIRCRAFT AND SAID THAT HE WOULD RELEASE ALL PASSENGERS ON THE PLANE WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ABD AL-HAMID AL-BU'AYJAN, KUWAITI AMBASSADOR TO LEBANON. THEY WOULD THEN TAKE A TOUR OF ARAB COUNTRIES. "IF ABU NA'IL REFUSES, THEN WE WILL TAKE THE PLANE TO DAMASCUS. LET ALL KNOW THAT HE WHO WAS ABLE TO ARRANGE TO HAVE THIS PLANE LOADED WITH DYNAMITE AND MACHINEGUNS CAN ALSO ENTER DAMASCUS AND DO WHAT HE WANTS." ABU THA'IR SAID HE HAD NO INTENTION OF MAKING DEMANDS TO EMBARRASS THE KUWAIT GOVERNMENT. ABU THA'IR THEN SAID "IF YOU DO NOT AGREE TO OUR DEMANDS, WE WILL GO TO ABU DHABI. WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT SHAIKH ZAYID WILL COME TO THE PLANE AND DISCUSS OUR DEMANDS AND WILL AGREE TO GO WITH US TO DAMASCUS. ABU NA'IL IS AN OLD FRIEND AND SHOULD NOT BE AFRAID. LET HIM COME WITH US. SUPPLY US WITH FOOD AND FUEL AND CONSIDER US AS CHARTERERS OF THE PLANE. I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT ARCHBISHOP CAPUCCI WILL GET OUT OF PRISON TOMORROW IN SPITE OF THE EYES OF BEGIN. WE WANT YASIR ARAFAT AND ABU AL-HUL TO BE WAITING FOR US IN DAMASCUS. IF YOU, ABU NA'IL, COME TO THE PLANE EVERYTHING WILL BE OVER. IF YOU  
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WANT I WILL BRING HERE ABD AL-HALIM AL-KHADDAM, (SYRIAN FON MIIN) BECAUSE "ABD AL-RAHMAN" (APPARENT REFERRAL TO ABU THA'IR HIMSELF) IS CAPABLE OF ANYTHING -- HE WHO WAS ABLE TO LEAD THIS PLANE WITH EXPLOSIVES CAN ARREST ANY SYRIAN OFFICER." MUHAMMAD AL-ADASANI ASKED ABU THA'IR, AS PROOF OF HIS GOOD INTENTIONS, TO RELEASE ALL THE WOMEN PASSENGERS ON THE PLANE. ABU THA'IR'S RESPONSE WAS THAT AL-ADASANI SHOULD FIRST COME TO THE PLANE, THEN THE WOMEN WOULD BE RELEASED. UNTIL THIS MORNING, ARAB AMBASSADORS ARE CONTINUING NEGOTIATIONS IN THE TOWER OF THE AIRPORT. FROM BEIRUT, AN OFFICIAL SOURCE AT THE AIRPORT SAID THAT A NUMBER OF MEN HAD BOARDED THE AIRCRAFT WITHOUT THE USUAL SECURITY CHECKS UPON THE INSISTENCE OF TWO MEN WHO CLAIMED TO BE SYRIAN SECURITY OFFICERS. ONE OF THE WOMEN RELEASED EARLIER FROM THE AIRCRAFT SAID THE ARMED MEN CLAIMED THEY WERE ACTING FOR NATIONALISTIC REASONS. SHE SAID THE MEN WERE ARMED WITH SMALL ARMS. END UNCLASSIFIED.

2. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. COMMENT: IT APPEARS THAT

EARLIER RUMORS AT KUWAIT AIRPORT ABOUT ANOTHER  
AIRCRAFT TO BE HIJACKED TO TEL AVIV MAY HAVE  
STEMMED FROM ABU THA'IR'S STATEMENT ABOUT  
ARCHBISHOP CAPUCCI CONTAINED IN THIS ARTICLE.  
AT THE TIME OF THIS WRITING WE ASSUME THAT  
NEGOTIATIONS ARE STILL CONTINUING BETWEEN THE  
CONTROL TOWER AND THE AIRCRAFT. WE ARE UNABLE  
TO IDENTIFY FURTHER ABU THA'IR OR ABD AL-RAHMAN.  
END CONFIDENTIAL.  
MAESTRONE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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